
Meeting: Schools Forum
Date: 5 March 2012
Subject: Use of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to support activities aimed at closing the gap for Ethnic Minority (EM) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) pupils
Report of: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Summary: The report proposes to Schools Forum that funding previously allocated to schools through the now discontinued Ethnic Minorities Achievement Grant (EMAG) be allocated to schools for the financial year 2012-13 through a top-slice of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), in the same way as it was allocated in 2011/12.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
Contact Officer: Helen Redding, Head of School Support
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATION(S):

that the Schools Forum agree to a £118,104 top-slice of DSG for the continuation of the funding to replace the discontinued EMAG grant

Background

11. The EMAG grant was part of the Standards Fund until 2010/11. Standards Funding has now been discontinued and been subsumed within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
12. The purpose of the EMAG grant was to support schools to narrow achievement gaps for EM (ethnic minority) and EAL (English as an additional language) pupils.
13. In 2011 -12 the total top-sliced DSG of £118,104.00 was distributed to maintained schools on the basis of the number of EM (ethnic minority) units at a school (as identified through the School Census Feb 2011 data).

14. Allocations for each Unit have been:
 - (a) £30 per lower school unit;
 - (b) £21 per middle school unit;
 - (c) £28 per upper school unit.
15. The rationale for this was to focus on early years and the need to improve KS4 results. Results indicate that gaps narrowed to some extent in the EYFS and at GCSE but widened at KS2. It would therefore be sensible to widen the frame to include a KS2 focus in 2012-13.
16. All schools, including special schools, were allocated a minimum of £200. Schools with less than 8 EM units were allocated the basic £200.
17. The remaining surplus was used in 2011/12 to support a small Travellers' project at Stanbridge Lower School.
18. Schools are expected to use the grant in the following ways to secure enhanced levels of achievement for targeted pupil groups and greater educational and social inclusion.
 - (a) fund specialist teaching and non-teaching posts;
 - (b) provide supply cover costs to release staff for relevant training;
 - (c) fund training courses;
 - (d) purchase suitable teaching resources and materials;
 - (e) fund the provision of translators.
19. The Council no longer has an Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service so there is now a greater emphasis on schools supporting EM/EAL pupils through their own resources.

Conclusion/next steps

20. Should the Schools Forum agree to the recommendation to continue to top slice DSG as previously, it may wish to comment on the manner in which it has been allocated in the past and to make recommendations as to how it would wish to see funding allocated in the future.
21. Schools Forum may wish to agree a mechanism/timescale for the allocation/distribution of this funding.